

acquiring a status for the determined response
addressee;

employing the status for the determined response
addressee that is acquired at said response addressee status
acquisition step to determine whether or not a person at the
determined response addressee can manage the response; and

determining, when it is ascertained at said
determination step that said person cannot manage the
response, a re-response procedure in which a re-response
addressee or a re-response medium is different from the
determined response procedure leading to the response which
could not be managed by said person at said response
procedure determination step, preparing re-response
information at said response information preparation step in
accordance with the re-response procedure, and outputting the
re-response information at said response information output
step in accordance with the re-response procedure.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the
Office Action dated January 18, 2001. Claims 1-24, 26-42,
44-49, 51-75, 77-93, 95-100, 102, and 104-106 are presented
for examination. Claim 103 has been canceled, without

prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 1, 19, 38, 44, 51, 70, 89, 95, and 104-106 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 19, 38, 44, 70, 89, 95, and 104-106 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 19 and 70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morgan et al. (U.S. Patent 5,220,674). Claim 104 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Morgan.

Independent Claim 70 is directed to a response method and recites acquiring a status of a machine to be checked and discriminating a type of error indicated by the acquired status. A response addressee and response medium are determined depending upon the discriminated type of error. Response information representing the discriminated type of error is prepared in accordance with the determined response addressee and medium. The prepared response information is output to the determined response addressee using the determined response medium.

In contrast, Morgan relates to a local area print server 10 that monitors a status of events occurring internally and within attached printers 16a, 16b. The

configuration described in Morgan allows the local area print server 10 to respond to status queries from other components that are part of the network 12. The local area print server 10 also can arrange to have an appropriate message displayed on an appropriate operator console 20 whenever one of the printers 16a, 16b needs paper (col. 7 lines 30 to 49).

Applicants have found nothing in Morgan that would teach or suggest discriminating a type of error indicated by the acquired status and determining a response addressee and response medium depending upon the discriminated type of error.

The Office Action cites various portions of Morgan as corresponding to the features of Claim 70. For example, the Office Action cites column 16, lines 58-69, which discusses an event handler 150 in the server job controller 40 that receives reports from the status collector 48. The event handler takes "appropriate action" based on these reports, such as sending notification to print clients 18 that a job has been completed or that a printer has gone off line to service a print request. However, the reports sent by the event handler 150 all proceed through the network, rather through a response medium determined based on the discriminated type of error, as recited in Claim 70.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Claim 70 is not anticipated by or obvious from Morgan. Independent Claims 19 and 104 recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 70, and it is submitted, for the reasons discussed above, that these claims also are not anticipated by or obvious from Morgan.

Claims 1-17, 20, 23, 24, 27, 32-37, 52-68, 71, 74, 75, 78, 83-88, and 103 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Morgan in view of Mandel et al. (U.S. Patent 5,358,238). Claims 18 and 69 were rejected as being obvious from Morgan in view of Mandel and Wernikoff et al. (U.S. Patent 3,751,582). Claims 21, 22, 26, 28-31, 38-42, 44-49, 51, 72, 73, 77, 79-82, 89-93, 95-100, 102, 105, and 106 were rejected as being obvious from Morgan in view of Hayashi et al. (U.S. Patent 5,485,246).

Claim 89 recites, *inter alia*, determining whether or not a response has failed as a result of outputting the response information and determining, when it is ascertained that a response has failed, a re-response procedure in which a re-response addressee or a re-response medium is different from the determined response procedure leading to the failed response at response procedure determination means.

As the Official Action concedes, the combination of Morgan and Mandel does not teach or suggest a response result determination step or a re-response procedure determination step, as recited in Claim 89. The Official Action cites Hayshi as disclosing these claimed features.

Hayashi relates to a control system for collectively supervising a plurality of copiers. Hayashi describes a procedure for communicating between a copier 1 and a control device 141 that is executed by a CPU 100. As shown in Fig. 52, the control device 141 generates a communication request, the CPU 100 determines whether the human body sense flag is set and, if not, the CPU sets up a communication with the control device 14 and then returns. If the human body sense flag is set, the CPU 100 determines that a person is using the copier 1 and inhibits the communication (see, column 27, lines 31 to 40).

The Office Action takes the position that the return step following the inhibited communication corresponds to the recited re-response procedure. However, Hayashi merely repeats the same attempted communication when the human body sense flag is set, rather than executing a re-response procedure in which a re-response addressee or a re-response medium is different from the determined response

procedure leading to the failed response, as recited in Claim 89.

Accordingly it is submitted that Claim 89 is not obvious from the combination of Morgan and Hayashi. Independent Claims 38, 44, 95, 105, and 106 recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 89, and it is submitted, for the reasons discussed above, that these claims also are not obvious from the combination of Morgan and Hayashi. The other cited references, Mandel and Wernikoff, are not believed to remedy the above-discussed deficiencies of Morgan and Hayashi in this regard.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All

correspondence should continue to be directed to our below
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Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Three Times Amended) A response apparatus
according to Claim 19, further comprising:

response message determination means for determining a
response message in accordance with the [acquired status]
discriminated type of the error, [and]

wherein said response information preparation means
prepares the response information for [a] the determined response
medium in text form by combining the determined response message
with an opening or closing phrase that is characteristic of the
response medium.

19. (Three Times Amended) A response apparatus
comprising:

status acquisition means for acquiring a status of a
machine to be checked;

discrimination means for discriminating a type of an
error indicated by the acquired status;

[response procedure determination means for determining a response procedure in accordance with the acquired status of the machine to be checked;]

response addressee determination means for determining a response addressee depending upon the [acquired status of the machine to be checked] discriminated type of the error;

response medium determination means for determining a response medium based on the discriminated type of the error;

response information preparation means for preparing response information representing the discriminated type of the error in accordance with the determined response addressee and medium [procedure]; and ✓

response information output means for outputting said prepared response information to said determined response addressee [in accordance with] using the determined response medium [procedure].

38. (Twice Amended) A response apparatus comprising:

response procedure determination means for determining a response procedure including a response addressee and a response medium;

response information preparation means for preparing response information in accordance with the determined response procedure;

response information output means for outputting the prepared response information to [a] the determined response addressee [in accordance with] using the determined response medium [procedure];

response result determination means for determining whether or not a response has failed as a result of outputting the response information; and

re-response control means for, when said response result determination means ascertains that said response has failed, permitting said response procedure determination means to determine a re-response procedure [that] in which a re-response addressee or a re-response medium is different from the determined response procedure leading to the failed response, [for] permitting said response information preparation means to prepare re-response information in accordance with the re-response procedure, and [for] permitting said response information output means to output the re-response information.

44. (Twice Amended) A response apparatus comprising:
response procedure determination means for determining
a response procedure including a response addressee and a
response medium;

response information preparation means for preparing
response information in accordance with the determined response
procedure;

response information output means for outputting the
prepared response information to the determined response
addressee using the determined response medium;

response addressee status acquisition means for
acquiring a status for [a] the determined response addressee;

determination means for employing the status [at] for
the determined response addressee that is acquired by said
response addressee status acquisition means to determine whether
or not a person at the determined response addressee can manage
the response; and

re-response control means for, when said determination
means determines that said person cannot manage the response,
permitting said response procedure determination means to
determine a re-response procedure [that] in which a re-response

addressee or a re-response medium is different from the determined response procedure leading to the response which could not be managed by said person, [for] permitting said response information preparation means to prepare re-response information in accordance with the re-response procedure, and [for] permitting said response information output means to output the re-response information in accordance with the re-response procedure.

52. (Three Times Amended) A response method according to Claim 70, further comprising the steps of:

determining a response message in accordance with the [acquired status] discriminated type of the error; and

preparing the response information for [a] the determined response medium in text form by combining the determined response message with an opening or closing phrase that is characteristic of the response medium.

70. (Three Times Amended) A response method comprising the steps of:

acquiring a status of a machine to be checked;

discriminating a type of an error indicated by the
acquired status;

[determining a response procedure in accordance with
the acquired status of the machine to be checked;]

determining a response addressee depending upon the
[acquired status of the machine to be checked] discriminated type
of the error;

determining a response medium based on the
discriminated type of the error;

preparing response information representing the
discriminated type of the error in accordance with the determined
response [procedure] addressee and medium; and

outputting said prepared response information to said
determined response addressee [in accordance with] using the
determined response [procedure] medium.

89. (Amended) A response method comprising the steps
of:

determining a response procedure including a response
addressee and a response medium;

preparing response information in accordance with the determined response procedure;

outputting the prepared response information to [a] the determined response addressee [in accordance with] using the determined response [procedure] medium;

determining whether or not a response has failed as a result of outputting the response information; and

determining, when it is ascertained at said response result determination step that said response has failed, a re-response procedure [that] in which a re-response addressee or a re-response medium is different from the determined response procedure leading to the failed response [at response procedure determination means], preparing re-response information at said response information preparation step in accordance with the re-response procedure, and outputting the re-response information at said response information output step.

95. (Twice Amended) A response method comprising the steps of:

determining a response procedure;

preparing response information in accordance with the determined response procedure including a response addressee and a response medium;

outputting the prepared response information to the determined response addressee using the determined response medium;

acquiring a status [at a] for the determined response addressee;

employing the status [at] for the determined response addressee that is acquired at said response addressee status acquisition step to determine whether or not a person at the determined response addressee can manage the response; and

determining, when it is ascertained at said determination step that said person cannot manage the response, a re-response procedure [that] in which a re-response addressee or a re-response medium is different from the determined response procedure leading to the response which could not be managed by said person at said response procedure determination step, preparing re-response information at said response information preparation step in accordance with the re-response procedure, and outputting the re-response information at said response

information output step in accordance with the re-response procedure.

1 104. (Three Times Amended) A computer-readable storage medium in which is stored a response program for controlling a computer to transmit a response, said program comprising codes for enabling said computer to perform the steps of:

acquiring a status of a machine to be checked;

discriminating a type of an error indicated by the acquired status;

[determining response procedure in accordance with the acquired status of the machine to be checked;]

determining a response addressee depending upon the [acquired status of the machine to be checked] discriminated type of the error;

determining a response medium based on the discriminated type of the error;

preparing response information representing the discriminated type of the error in accordance with the determined response [procedure] addressee and medium; and

outputting said prepared response information to said determined response addressee in accordance with the determined response procedure.

105. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage medium in which is stored a response program for controlling a computer to transmit a response, said program comprising codes for enabling said computer to perform the steps of:

determining a response procedure including a response addressee and a response medium;

preparing response information in accordance with the determined response procedure;

outputting the prepared response information to [a] the determined response addressee [in accordance with] using the determined response [procedure] medium;

determining whether or not a response has failed as a result of outputting the response information; and

determining, when it is ascertained at said response result determination step that said response has failed, a re-response procedure [that] in which a re-response addressee or a re-response medium is different from the determined response

procedure leading to the failed response at response procedure determination means, preparing re-response information at said response information preparation step in accordance with the re-response procedure, and outputting the re-response information at said response information output step.

106. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage medium in which is stored a response program for controlling a computer to transmit a response, said program comprising codes for enabling said computer to perform the steps of:

determining a response procedure including a response addressee and a response medium;

preparing response information in accordance with the determined response procedure;

outputting the prepared response information to the determined response addressee using the determined response medium;

acquiring a status [at a] for the determined response addressee;

employing the status [at] for the determined response addressee that is acquired at said response addressee status

acquisition step to determine whether or not a person at the
determined response addressee can manage the response; and

determining, when it is ascertained at said
determination step that said person cannot manage the response, a
re-response procedure [that] in which a re-response addressee or
a re-response medium is different from the determined response
procedure leading to the response which could not be managed by
said person at said response procedure determination step,
preparing re-response information at said response information
preparation step in accordance with the re-response procedure,
and outputting the re-response information at said response
information output step in accordance with the re-response
procedure.